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Course: Ed. 7201T

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September, 2010

**Reflection #2:  
How important is the literature review (and differentiating between various types  
of journals) and assessing prior research, theorists, and current instructional strategies?**

*.*According to Wikipedia, “A literature review is a body of text that aims to review the critical points of current knowledge including substantive findings as well as theoretical and methodological contributions to a particular topic.” (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literature_review>) It is therefore important that a review of literature is conducted before attempting an Action Research. By reviewing the literature, the researcher can gain insight into a specific research topic of subject. The researcher can also compare and contrast the views of others. Important points can be verified and grouped. After reviewing literature , the researcher can proceed to test any hypothesis which was previously formed.

Educational journals can be used when conducting a literature review. An objective approach and insight into a topic can be obtained from reviewing a refereed journal rather than a non refereed or trade journal. A refereed journal is apt to review articles that take a critical and objective approach to a topic based on studies conducted. One can also identify this type of journal from certain features such as the abstract which is always present at the beginning. The non-referred journal may be published by an organization and may focus on promoting an idea. This type of journal comes with numerous advertisements.

The journals provide a base from which a comparison and contrast of existing ideas could be carried out. One can access prior research which could help to prove a given hypothesis. The information obtained from the journals can help the researcher to make informed decisions pertaining to the correct or most effective approach which can be adopted to conduct the specific research.

Theorists such as Piaget has conducted research and discovered methods which are widely accepted and used in the field of education. The work of these theorists could be used to justify the use of instructional strategies chosen by a researcher. We can also use their views to validate or dispute current instructional strategies. We can also find areas in which the existing instructional strategies may need modifying by simply reviewing and assessing different views posited by several theorists on a specific subject.